

March 8, 1984

LB 561

also guards us against all of the things that the physicians' assistants can do. I would suggest to you, please realize that there are strict requirements here in order for only those optometrists who qualify to be able to do this. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close?

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes. Mr. President, Senator Beutler made a confession and I've got one too. Senator Beutler said that he voted for laetrile. I didn't. I didn't because I did the same thing on that bill that I did on this, tried to have it checked, tried to bring all the people together that had knowledge about it, tried to see what had occurred in other states and the evidence just wasn't there. And, of course, as you ultimately know, laetrile was pretty badly discredited and there is nobody pursuing that particular goal today. By the same token, using those same standards, checking other states, checking the experiences, trying to find the middle road, trying to find what benefits my district, trying to find what the doctors who are really deeply involved in this really feel, I concluded that this is a reasonable approach. It does make health care less expensive, more available particularly in the rural areas and available with safety. Now why do I say safety? Because precisely and exactly the same instruction is going to be provided to the people who are allowed to utilize this limited therapy as is available and is being used now by the doctors, the ophthalmologists that are doing it. I think the bill is a reasonable middle ground. I've got deep